

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following *new* paragraph on page 1, between lines 2 and 3:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This U.S. National stage application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a) to Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-276938, filed in Japan on July 18, 2003, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the heading at page 2, line 14, with the following rewritten version:

SUMMARY DISCLOSURE-OF THE INVENTION

Please remove the heading at page 5, line 22, as shown:

DESCRIPTION OF THE REFERENCE SYMBOLS

Please remove the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 23 as shown:

- 1 joint main body
- 2 nut
- 2a side surface of the nut
- 3 sleeve
- 6a side surface of a nut portion of the joint main body (opposing surface)
- 10 pipe
- 31 sleeve main body
- 32 linking part
- 33 separating part
- 50 joining hole
- 58 external threaded part of the joint main body (threaded part)
- F2 shearing force

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~~H — gap between the side surface of the joint main body and the side surface of the nut~~

Please replace the heading at page 6, line 2, with the following rewritten version:

~~BEST MODE OR CARRYING OUT DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE~~
~~INVENTION~~

Please replace the heading at page 13, line 1, with the following rewritten version:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: ~~Claims~~